

Swavesey Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1897 04 10

Swavesey accident, p4

1989 01 14

Swavesey by-roads, p3 *

1898 03 15

The annual Tea of the Friends adult school was held in Sturton Town Hall, Cambridge. The objects of the school are to promote self-help, brotherly kindness, and a practical Christian life. They had 167 members on the books, 114 at Nelson Street, 31 at River Lane, and 22 at Swavesey, with an average attendance of 117 in the three schools on Sunday mornings for the year. It was difficult to get much interest manifested in the intellectual pursuits by labouring men at the end of a day's work, although the friends of the school believed if they made efforts in this direction they would find it a real relaxation. It was much hoped that this way of employing leisure, so much more sensible and profitable than the absolute waste of time in comic singing and other senseless amusement in vogue in some of the young people's guilds, would become more common among them.

1898 05 27

Swavesey men in USA

1898 06 10

Swavesey had a first class sensation on Monday night. It is not used to such novelties. It appears Swavesey has a widow. Nothing strange about that. But this was a fascinating widow. Nothing remarkable even about that. Her husband is scarcely cold in his newly-made grave before he is superseded. This is the story which bought out the inhabitants in hundreds into the main street to celebrate the widow on Monday evening. From eight o'clock until eleven the rattle of tin cans, the whistling and shouting, hooting and yelling, and a tuning of various other musical and unmusical instruments, filled the air in this usually quiet village. Whether these noisy attentions of the neighbours will do any real good is open to question

1898 07 11

Swavesey accident, Holywell ferry, p2

1899 03 11

An Italian was charged with riding on the Great Eastern Railway from Wimblington to Histon without having previously paid his fare. James Franklin, a guard, said he saw the prisoner get into the train. At Swavesey station some boys informed him there was a man under the seat in the railway carriage. The man said he had been in the country for six months and had been obtaining his living by playing a concertina, but the instrument had gone wrong, and he had no money to buy a new one. The police-court missionary is looking after the case.

1899 09 04

Sir – Swavesey has a fire engine which today after a few years of peaceful repose, with a great ceremony and clatter, but with no wild haste, was taken to the scene of a fire. By almost superhuman efforts it was placed in position by a pond and then hose and suction pipes were attached. One gallant fireman in a white hat screwed on the nozzle, the pumps were manned but sad to say all that this parish relic of antiquity pumped was air. In vain the white-hatted hero pointed his nozzle and scorched his clothes. The fire burned on merrily while the engine stood useless by the pond – “Q”
Swavesey fire, Manor Farm, p2 *

1899 12 02c

It is particularly gratifying to note that the villages are giving generously towards the assistance of our soldiers' families. The public meeting held at Waterbeach reflected the utmost credit on this village and its public spirited inhabitants. Another village that has done honour to itself is Swavesey where

over £40 has been contributed. The heart of the nation has been touched to pity and to effort. The needs are great but they are bound to become very much greater

1900 01 12

A successful amateur skating competition open to all within a radius of five miles was held on the championship skating course at Swavesey. The ice was not looking its best, being in some places rough and bumpy. The Prize Challenge Cup (to be won twice) was given by Mr Ben Thorp of Swavesey and Messrs Norman Bros generously gave the prizes.

1900 12 29

Swavesey laudanum

1901 01 07

Prospects of early skating are splendid, and unless there is an immediate change the exhilarating pastime will be indulged in tomorrow at the Littleport rendezvous. Swavesey is also flooded and will soon bear. Whether the National Skating Association will decide to hold the Championships there or at Littleport is not yet known. There is much to recommend both places, but whereas they lack length of a proper course at Littleport, the arrangements for racing are almost perfect.

1901 08 05

Suggestions that the model cottage is not so comfortable as the old-fashioned thatched dwellings must not be accepted without some qualification. Surely nobody will contend that the thatched cottage, with a low roof and a ladder for a staircase, is more comfortable than the brick cottage. Very few have inspected the model cottage on Mr Crisp's estate at Girton or they would not have committed themselves to such an unfortunate pronouncement. It is nothing short of a grave scandal that such large centres as Cottenham, Swavesey and Soham are in danger in the summer of suffering from a short water supply.

1902 02 07

Swavesey Rural District Council considered the recent smallpox epidemic. Each division must provide its own isolated building for such cases. Each councillor had been asked to look around their parishes and see if they could find a cottage sufficiently isolated to serve as a smallpox hospital in case of emergency. No one seemed to have discovered such a spot. The St Ives district had purchased a couple of railway carriages which were being used. It was proposed that two such carriages be purchased by the Council.

1903 03 16

Magistrates considered renewing the licences of various public houses. The Hoops at Barton was in an untidy state; at Chesterton the Castle Inn was much improved but the Prince of Wales had a great deal of accommodation and was the best in the district. The Black Bull at Longstanton was a genuine business for the benefit of the public and was absolutely essential. The George and Dragon, Swavesey had four bedrooms but the back entrance gave facility for secret drinking – this was a parish where there were too many public houses in proportion to the population. The licence was granted on condition the back way was closed up

1903 10 30

Swavesey swan killed, p3

1904 02 23

Swavesey has been visited by another heavy flood and several householders obliged to get fresh lodgings. The County Council has had temporary footbridges, with handrails, put across the gateways against the Swann pond to keep the footway open to the church and station. One gentleman accidentally pushed the bridge over, and found the water very wet. The road to Over was under two feet of water so they provided a horse and cart to take people across. Hundreds of acres are still under water and they have had so many floods lately that farmers are at their wits' end

1905 11 04

Justices awarded compensation under the scheme for reducing the number of public houses. They included the Hoops pubs in Kneesworth, Melbourn and Steeple Morden, the Sir Harry Smith at Swavesey and the Ram's Head at Swaffham Bulbeck. In Oakington The Windmill, King's Head and Plough and Harrow were closed. But the closure of the 'Wait for the Bus' at Bottisham was contested; others Rams Head, Swaffham Bulbeck; Swaffham Prior: White Hart; Swavesey: Railroad, Bird in Hand; Cottenham: Windmill; Dry Drayton: Rose and Crown 05 11 04b-d

1906 03 27

When Cambridgeshire magistrates started the task of extinguishing licences of public houses thought to be superfluous the offers of compensation were accepted in all but three cases. These were the Wait for the Bus at Bottisham, the Sir Harry Smith at Swavesey and the King's Head, Oakington, all owned by Hudson's Brewery of Pampisford. Now the Inland Revenue Commissioners have awarded larger sums for two, but reduced the amount offered for the Wait for the 'Bus from £355 down to £120. Now the brewery may appeal 06 03 27a

1908 07 31

Twenty-six licensed houses are to close, magistrates decided. They include the Robin Hood at Litlington, Chesterton Long Reach, Swaffham Prior's Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Three Jolly Watermen in Waterbeach Fen. But the Fox in the Wood at Soham and the Cock at Isleham were spared after Police Superintendent Winter failed to appear to give evidence. The licence of the Black Horse at Over was renewed after the Star Brewery appealed. also Barrington Boot & Shoe, Bassingbourn Yew Tree, Steeple Morden Lion, Swaffham Prior John Bull, Bottisham Rose & Crown, Cottenham Six Bells, Oakington Lion and Lamb, Stapleford Hammer & Anvil, Swavesey Chequers, Willingham Little Rose, Castle Camps George, Balsham Ram, Linton White Hart, Cambridge Yorkshire Grey, Old Red Lion, Nine Pines, Thatched House, Baker's Arms, Red Lion, Brewery Tap & Carpenters' Arms. CWN 08 07 31

1909 01 29

An old tramp known by the sobriquet 'Scissor Sharpener' was discovered lying by the side of the road in Swavesey. He was apparently dead, for all efforts to revive him were unavailing. A search of his pockets revealed a twist, two pieces of whetstone, a pipe, a halfpenny and a matchbox. David Garner of the Red Lion said he had known the deceased for four or five years. He went by the name of 'Scissor Sharpener' which he believed was his trade. He said nothing about himself but had been getting very feeble during the last two years. CWN 09 01 29

1909 04 23

Rev W.H. Stevens, Swavesey Baptist church – profile – 09 04 23

1909 04 23

Swavesey parish council should see that the gate by the bridge on Church Green, now off its hinges, is repaired immediately. One villager was thrown by the cord which until recently blocked the entrance to the bridge. A stick nailed about four feet above the ground has since been substituted but stout and elderly persons, and there are more than one in the village, experience difficulties in stooping under the obstruction which is a danger to persons using the path across the green in the dark. 09 04 23

1909 04 23

The funeral of Thomas Watson Carter took place at Swavesey amidst universal manifestations of sympathy and respect. Every shop was closed, the blinds of nearly every house in the village were lowered and all classes attended to render their last tribute to the memory of their old familiar friend and fellow parishioner. The body, enclosed in a plain, unpolished oak coffin was borne into Bethel Baptist Church by six workmen formerly employed on his farm and placed in front of the rostrum which was covered with black drapery edged with white. By special request there were no wreaths or flowers. The building was crowded. 09 04 23

1909 05 28

Martin Caine left Swavesey for Canada, in March 1898. He writes home to say that Seattle streets swarm with gaily-dressed people, loaded street cars and autos flying hither and thither. Streets and stores all blaze with electric and gas light and dance halls, theatres, fruit stands, ice-cream parlours, hotels and saloons were crowded. Everywhere seemed alive and everybody gay and sporty. 09 05 28

1909 06 04

Mr William Lack states that when he was in Taylor's Lane, Swavesey, at 2.30 am, he saw a large object in the sky which had every appearance of being an airship. The object had a strong light at its head and another at its tail. It appeared to be passing towards Huntingdon along the line of the old road from Cambridge. A police constable however, who was patrolling at the same time, saw nothing of the apparition. 09 06 04

1909 06 04

An elderly inhabitant of Swavesey remembers seeing sign boards on houses in the village many years ago. One in the High Street read "James Hephher, tailor, barber, bleeder and tooth drawer". Another near the Swan Pond proclaimed: "J. Wicks lives here. He sweeps chimneys far and near. All they who choose on him to call, He's willing to oblige them all. N.B. Fire Defender and Smoke Jack Cleaner". It was removed about 50 years ago. 09 06 04

1909 06 11

Swavesey ratepayers were told that the present water supply had been condemned at its source and was unhealthy. The alternatives were to pump water from the river Ouse, filter it and store it in a reservoir or obtain a piped supply from the East Hunts Waterworks. The cost had been exaggerated and when the new system was working everybody would be pleased. But, if the water was impure, why had there been no illness and why did people live to such a great age in the parish? Mr Thomas Prior said he had come to the meeting to oppose it but found he could not do so. 09 06 11

1909 06 18

A company of cyclists from Swavesey and Over proceeding home on a Sabbath evening encountered two motor cars. There was a wholesale smash in which many pound's worth of damage was done to one of the cars and several cycles were seriously knocked about. The driver said the cyclists had been drinking: they seemed to be all over the road. One said he'd been courting and had had twopence-worth of ginger wine; he wasn't drunk, he was in love which is much the same thing. 09 06 18

1909 06 25

The pump in Middle Watch, Swavesey is in a worse condition than ever. It used to be necessary to put down water (obtained from a pond or water butt) once a day to induce the bucket to act; now water has to be poured down each time it is used. This disregard of the health and convenience of residents seems inexplicable and the council should act. 09 06 25

1909 07 02

A number of village public houses are no longer economic and should close, magistrates were told. They included the Bell at Meldreth, Melbourn's Old Elm Tree, The Royal Oak Fulbourn, The Lamb and Lord Nelson at Cottenham, British Queen Chesterton, Queen's Head Dry Drayton, Over's Hare and Hounds, Balsham Five Awls and Soham's Fox-in-Wood. But the licensee of the Green Man at Swavesey said he did not want to leave it. CWN 09 07 02

1909 07 02

Licensing – includes Meldreth Bell, Melbourn Old Elm Tree, Orwell Red Lion, Fulbourn Royal Oak, Cottenham Lamb & Lord Nelson, Chesterton British Queen, Prince of Wales, Dry Drayton Queen's head, Swavesey Green Man, Over Hare & Hounds, Balsham Five Awls, Soham Fox-in-wood, Cambridge Prince of Wales & White Horse – CWN 09 07 02
Swavesey pump – 09 07 02

1909 07 16

The Plough, a lonely two-storied brick house on the road from Swavesey to Fen Drayton, is in course of demolition. Built in the earlier part of last century for a wayside public house it became a private dwelling about 20 years ago but of late has been tenantless. Between the ceiling of the downstairs room and the floor above a few copper coins, five or six clay pipes, two ancient thimbles, a reel of white cotton and the skeleton of a rat have been found. CWN 09 07 16

1909 07 30

Before last June newspapers were received in Swavesey through the railway or by post. They had to be fetched from the station or came by the midday delivery and few people indulged in the luxury of a daily paper. Then W.F. Gleaves of High Street became agent for the 'Daily Mail' and later supplied all newspapers. Daily papers are now delivered immediately after receipt by the 8.25 train and certain London dailies arrive earlier. Under the old arrangement postal or railway charges had to be added to the cost of the paper. Now even in Elsworth, six miles distant, papers are delivered for face value. CWN 09 07 30

1909 08 06

A correspondent calls attention to certain dilapidated cottages on the high road from Swavesey station to Over. These ancient buildings of stud and clay are windowless and door-less, making them the happy hunting ground of schoolchildren and a nightly refuge for tramps. They are being pulled to pieces bit by bit and before long will collapse, he fears. 09 08 06

1909 08 06

Sir - Why cannot better arrangements be made for the early closure of village shops in Swavesey? During summer months it would be a great boon to younger assistants if an earlier hour than four o'clock were adopted. In Willingham business on Wednesdays is suspended at one o'clock and the public do not complain of inconvenience and in Cambridge on Thursdays business ceases at the same hour. - Correspondent. CWN 09 08 06

1909 08 13

Harry Beaumont who went to Canada from Swavesey in 1907, has written to tell of a sad disaster. He acquired a piece of land near Nelson, British Columbia, and built a wooden hut. But while lighting a smoking fire in a tin to drive out mosquitoes a spark set some brushwood alight and the cabin was burnt down. He rescued a box containing his papers but everything else, including his carpentering tools, violin, camera and much-prized books have been destroyed. CWN 09 08 13

1909 08 20

About noon on Friday a mysterious object was observed in the sky hovering over Church End, Swavesey. People stopped and stared and wondered. Housewives rushed from their kitchen recklessly leaving pots and pans to boil over and their dinners at the mercy of the predatory cat, and men in the fields dropped their tools and gazed. The much talked-of airship had come at last. No it was too small: it must be an aeroplane with M. Bleriot aboard. At length a keen-eyed gazer detected a line connecting the flying object to the earth. It was a kite resembling an aeroplane sent up by some London visitors who were sitting quietly in Mr Twist's stack yard oblivious of the excitement they had caused. CWN 09 08 20

1909 08 27

Fatigued by an evening spent in picking fruit a Swavesey young lady sat down to supper when she felt a bite or sting. She searched for the intrusive insect, but it was something more terrifying. A mouse ran from her clothing and a mouse has terrors for the female mind. Even the boldest suffragette who has smacked the face of a gentleman clad in official blue or spent long hours on the roof of a public building is understood to quail before a mouse. So the Swavesey young lady's fright can well be imagined. CWN 09 08 27

1909 08 06

Swavesey early closing – CWN 09 08 06

1909 08 27

Swavesey tap-room clock, water baby – swims in pond – CWN 09 08 27

1909 09 03

A sad procession was seen wending its way towards Swavesey from the river. Surrounded by a company of young men was a four-wheeled trolley on which was borne the ancient boat which Mr Henry Beaumont, the far-famed Swavesey angler, has for many years used on his fishing expeditions. The old craft has been patched again and again but it now beyond repair. It may become a beehive or be set on end to form a garden seat. Or it may be broken up and add heat and cheerfulness to the room where trophies of its owner's rod and line are displayed. CWN 09 09 03

1909 10 08

The smaller of two weights of the clock in the tower of Swavesey church fell with a crash on Sunday when the wire broke. There was nobody in the church at the time but Mr J. Bridgford, who was in the yard of the Manor opposite, heard the crash. It was repaired by Mr E. Trench Smith, clockmaker of Huntingdon, and set going again to the satisfaction of the dwellers in Church End and of persons hurrying to catch trains. CWN 09 10 08

1910 01 28

On Tuesday morning whilst Mr Edward Warboys was delivering milk from a cart in High Street, Swavesey, his horse bolted. It collided with a cart belonging to Mrs John Mitham of Lolworth. The wheels of the two carts were locked and both horses raced through the village. At the corner of Market Street the milk cart struck Mr Scard's house, doing some slight damage to the wall. Both shafts of Mr Warboys' cart were broken off, a wheel spoke fractured, the axle bent and all the milk spilled. 10 01 28g

1910 04 01

Boys attending Longstanton School accepted a challenge from Swavesey School for a football match. But on arrival they found a strong combination of larger boys from Swavesey, St Ives, Over and Houghton opposing them. An offer by Swavesey for them to discard their smaller boys for some of the spectators to make the teams more equal was dismissed by the little lads who determined to 'stick to their own men'. As expected Longstanton were beaten by nine goals to nil. Eight of the goals were scored by lads from Houghton and one by a lad from Over. The Longstanton juveniles have only been playing football for a month, a ball having been presented by the schoolmistress. 10 04 01b

1910 04 01

On Easter Monday morning a tall and burly Swavesey resident was conveying manure to his allotment in a handcart when in Taylor's Lane one of the wheels collapsed. A young lady very kindly assisted in lifting the laden vehicle to the side of the road where it remained for some hours. Later the manure was tipped on the roadside and the cart ignominiously trundled home on one wheel. It is a striking example of inventive genius, the body being an old washing trough while the wheels once belonged to a perambulator. Another massive man was seen leading a small donkey which was dragging a harrow in one of the allotments. Its master stood by to see it was not overworked. 10 04 01c

1910 04 29

Death of George Metcalfe of Swavesey and Jonas Webb, farmer at Freckenham – 10 04 29h

1910 05 06

Under the new Midwives Act no woman can habitually attend women in childbirth unless she is certified. There were 54 midwives on the register of whom 30 were trained. Ten of the untrained women were between the ages of 65-75 and might need replacing before long by reason of death or

infirmity. There was only one trained midwife at Willingham and an untrained woman at Landbeach. There were none at Isleham, Burwell, Wicken, Upware, Milton, Cottenham, Swavesey or Histon. Some mothers can afford the fee of a medical practitioner but are unable also to pay the full fee of a skilled nurse and so may turn to unregistered women 10 05 06b & c

1910 05 27

Friday was kept as a day of mourning at Swavesey for the funeral of the King. All shops were closed with the exception of the butchers and pubs. During the morning a strange and solemn stillness held the village. Few carts passed along the streets. Even the children seemed to catch the spirit of the day and refrained from noisy play. Blinds were drawn in private houses and from the church tower the Union Jack floated in the breeze at half-mast 10 05 27c

1910 06 24

Swavesey accident with tricycle on railway, death of nurse Mary Edwards – 10 06 24h

1910 07 01

Licences for: Bassingbourn Beerhouse in the fen, Meldreth Green Man, Fulbourn Coach & Horses, Chesterton White Horse, Cottenham Boot, Fen Drayton Horse & Gate, Longstanton Red Cow, Milton Three Tuns, , Shelford King William IV, Shudy Camps Chequers, Linton George & Dragon. Cambridge Star & Garter Petty Cury, Cardinal's Cap, Crown & Anchor, Borough Boys, Ship, Merry Boys, Prince Albert, Oxford – all refused. Melbourn White Lion & Swavesey Little Rose renewed 10 07 01 & a

1910 07 08

The wife of the landlord of the Red Lion Inn, Boxworth End, Swavesey, recently had a surprise. Whilst engaged in household work at the back of the house she thought she heard the entrance of a crowd of customers into the taproom. On hurrying thither she found the room full of sheep which had found their way in through the open door 10 07 08f

1910 07 15

Swavesey Parish Council told an Inquiry into the village water supply they had never known a shortage and had one of the best springs for miles around. It might be impure just after flood but that was just once in 20 years and there had not been an instance of water causing an illness in the parish. But the RDC said there were four wells, all fed from the Black Horse well, which supplied the lower end of the village. It was highly polluted with sewage and quite unfit for drinking purposes. The rest had no public supply and in dry summers they had to cart water. 10 07 15d & 15f

1910 07 15

Swavesey nonconformity cemetery flowers – 10 07 15e

1910 07 22

Swavesey landlady of Black Horse pub burned dress - 10 07 22b

1910 08 12

A poor widow woman at Boxworth End Swavesey lost her weekly little bit of meat in a mysterious way. Some distance from her cottage she met the butcher's lad and told him to put it in an empty milk pan outside her back door and to cover it with an inverted plate so no four-legged marauder could get it. But on her return she found no meat and the ticket had also disappeared. Pieces of bacon and other items of food have previously been missed from the same receptacle. 10 08 12h

1910 09 02

We regret to record the death of Mr Alfred Williams who had been in business at Swavesey for half-a-century, first as a tailor and subsequently as a grocer. Twenty-eight years ago he took over the premises of Mr Thomas Payne, and here he passed away. For the past two years he had been in failing health but was able to attend to his business until the last few days of his life. He attended his usual

place of worship on Sunday morning but was then struck down with paralysis. The funeral took place in Swavesey cemetery 10 09 02f

1910 09 16

A customer who ordered half a ton of coal from an Over coal merchant was much surprised when he arrived at his premises dragging a cart containing the fuel. He sympathetically remarked "I'd only have had a couple of hundred had I known you'd no horse". But the merchant replied he did not trouble to put his horse in for such a trifle as half a ton and that were it not for Over hill he could drawn all of his coal himself from Swavesey railway station. 10 09 16e

1910 09 23

Swavesey people have reason to complain of the carelessness displayed by the men in charge of the traction engine and three huge trucks used to convey granite from the station for use on the county council roads. On several occasions the main road has been strewn with granite dropped from the trucks. The engine with its heavy train shakes the houses in an alarming way. When they come through after nine in the evening babies and early bed-goers have been roused from their sleep and the domestic peace disturbed. Horse and carts did not damage the roads like the engine does and gave employment to local men. 10 09 23f

1910 11 04

A man selling boaters and a butcher's boy on a bicycle came into collision in High Street, Swavesey. Man, boy and cycle fell sprawling on the road, the bloaters went flying and the fishmonger's trousers were torn. There is also a hole near the public lamp in the middle of Market Street which is dangerous. The lamplighter might have an awkward fall one of these dark nights. It should have been filled with some of the surplus soil from the new drain which has recently been removed from the street. 10 11 04j Charles Wood appointed headmaster

1910 11 18

The annual tea of the Swavesey Liberal Association was brought to an abrupt conclusion by the alarming intelligence that a fire had broken out in the village. At first the chairman, Mr Ebenezer Parish, thought it was a hoax and begged the audience to keep their seats but another messenger broke into the room with the news that the fire was on Mr Parish's own premises in Middle Watch. The village fire engine arrived and notwithstanding its great age – it is nearly 100 years old – it threw water with telling effect. Fire hooks hauled down the thatch while men scaled the roof and with forks and hands tore off the heated reed and straw 10 11 18c

1910 12 09

All the low-lying land around Swavesey is under water. The roadway is completely submerged at the Swan Pond and foot passengers have to use the raised causeway, the gate openings in which are spanned by temporary bridges. Mr. J. Barnett, dealer of Fenstanton, came to grief when crossing with a horse and cart. One wheel sunk into the recently filled-in trench and became embedded for some time. Previously a cow had sunk in the soft soil near the same place and was with great difficulty dragged out. 10 12 09d The railway line to St Ives has been carefully watched by gangs of men armed with flag.

1910 12 23

Floods at Cambridge & Swavesey – 10 12 23d

1910 12 23

At Boxworth the Squire, Mr Arthur Thornhill, with his usual liberality, distributed tickets for Christmas cheer to each householder on his estate. The Christmas charities, coal and money were given out in the schoolroom according to the discretion of the trustees and Mrs A. Kirke Smith also gave tea and sugar to all over 60 years in the parish as usual. At an entertainment in the schoolroom Mr G. Hills of Swavesey amused the audience with comic ditties and his banjo. 10 12 23g Two stained glass windows added to church

1911 01 13

In his will Thomas Payne, a Swavesey boot dealer has decreed that every 29th January, on his birthday, his trustees should give half a pound of tea and one pound of sugar to each of the poor widows of the village. A brass tablet is to be placed on the wall of the church near to the seats he used to occupy in memory of his wife and himself. 11 01 13h

1910 01 13

Sir - At the recent fire on the premises of the chairman of Swavesey parish council, one of the men working on the engine had the misfortune to have a finger crushed. He had to call in a doctor and stay away from work for a fortnight. As compensation he has received fifteen shillings, the amount of the doctor's bill, but nothing whatever for loss of pay during incapacity. Will such treatment encourage others to help out at fires in the village? Are the parish councillors who have charge of the engine prepared to work it themselves at future fires? If not would it not be wise if they took steps to have the young man adequately compensated? – 'Poor Old Joe'

1911 01 13

New Choir vestry at Swavesey church

1911 02 10

There was skating on Mere Fen Swavesey. In the centre the ice was fairly good and safe but at the sides it was weak and many got their feet and legs wet. Three visitors from Cambridge afforded some amusement. Declining the services of the men with chairs they sat down on the bank after spreading out handkerchiefs to protect their clothing. They put on their skates and went boldly forward. But the thin ice near the bank gave way and one man dropped about two feet into the water. The chairmen laughed heartily and the visitors beat a hasty retreat – 11 02 10d

1911 02 10

At Swavesey the high hedge at the corner of the Huntingdon Road, opposite the New Inn, has not yet been cut down to a proper height. With so many cars and motor cycles about it is a source of serious danger. But a motor caution post surmounted by a triangle has been erected this week in the yard of the National School at the corner of Carter's Lane, drivers are warned 11 02 10d

1911 03 17

Public house licences: Willingham 'Rose & Crown' *& 'Black Lion', Swavesey 'Little Watch' & 'Black Horse', Dry Drayton 'Prince of Wales', Waterbeach 'Wheatsheaf', Impington 'Chequers', Cottenham 'Turks Head' – 11 03 17c & d

1911 03 31

The Swan with Two Necks is one of the oldest public houses in Swavesey. It is well-known to fishermen and skaters, being the nearest inn to the river, Mere Fen and the railway station. For many years it was the headquarters of the parish church bellringers and many a lively night has been spent within its walls on the occasion of the annual suppers. At Feast times the spacious upper room was utilised for dancing. The licence has been held by Mrs Jonas Thorp for 37 years without a single complaint but she has given it up following the death of her husband. 11 03 31h

1911 04 14

Swavesey annual parish meeting lasted for three hours. From the beginning the lamps had not been shining with their wonted brilliancy. Then one went out while the other was slowly getting dimmer. One gentleman taking notes had a friend on either side who obligingly struck matches and even set alight to his paper. At length another lamp was found and business proceeded but still in a dim religious light. 11 04 14d

1911 04 21

Swavesey drove letting – 11 04 21e

1911 05 05

Swavesey health, milk supply – 11 05 05b

1911 05 26

Empire Day celebrations Grantchester, Toft, Swavesey – 11 05 26k & l

1911 06 02

Swavesey feast cannot be recorded as having been a success. The attendance of visitors from neighbouring villages was unusually small and there was an absence of incidents of interest. One gentleman in his shirt sleeves drove a family round the feast in a small donkey cart and caused a little amusement as every few yards the donkey declined to budge and had to be pushed or lifted by the kindly feast folk. On Monday a little child fell from its father's arms when riding a roundabout and struck the revolving platform. But the only injury was a small scratch on the leg 11 06 02d

1911 06 30

Several skulls and other human bones were dug up when excavating for a new water supply at Swavesey and were re-buried in the churchyard. Mr J. Jillings, a hale and hearty veteran of 90, remembers that prior to the making of the present road 70 years ago the churchyard extended to within a few yards of the Manor fence. A sister and two brothers who died young were buried in that part of the churchyard. The old road to Over meandered from Hog Pasture to the western side of Mill Pits and part is still in existence. 11 06 30g

1911 06 30

Swavesey Baptist pastor farewell; serious smash E.J. Warboys, milk delivery man – 11 06 30e

1911 06 30

William Hephher, when engaged in stacking hay in a farm yard at Swavesey, hung up his coat and waistcoat on a wurtzel cutter. When he went to put them on, the waistcoat was missing; two half-grown pigs had dragged it down and torn it to pieces. Young Hephher missed his watch and chain which he had left in a pocket and a search was made. At length a piece of chain was seen hanging from the mouth of one of the pigs and the watch was found inside. The case was marked with impressions of the animal's teeth but it was still going 11 06 30g

1911 07 14

The Crystal Palace pub in Mill Road Cambridge was difficult to supervise, police reported. The only way to get to the back was down a narrow passage at the side, the door of which was always locked. The Bell in Northampton Street was in bad repair with terrible accommodation, the house was damp and the only cooking facilities were in an underground kitchen. The landlady of the Chequers Impington said it was the only place to get a good glass of beer and if it closed many a man would become a teetotaller. The Gravel Diggers was right down in Cottenham fen but there was a considerable amount of labour at certain seasons. The tenant had held the licence for 30 years. It was renewed. Also Priory Tap, Melbourn White Horse, Guilden Morden Black Swan, Dry Drayton Prince of Wales, Swavesey Middle Watch & Black Horse, Soham Black Horse 11 07 14

1911 07 28

A traction engine belonging to Charles Thurston, drawing three show vans was instrumental in setting fire to hedges in three places when passing along the Huntingdon Road near Boxworth. A spark from the engine set a hedge alight near the King William IV Inn, one around Mr Topper's grass field and another belonging to the New Inn where about 100 yards were completely destroyed. The landlord, Charles Poulter and two men grappled energetically with this outburst and P.C. Richardson of Boxworth, who was superintending sheep dipping at Manor Farm Swavesey was promptly on the spot 11 07 28i

1911 07 28

Swavesey John Culpin, son of Charles Culpin, blacksmith, fell from coal van 11 07 28i

1911 08 11

Horse killed at railway crossing Mow Fen Swavesey – 11 08 11f

1911 08 25

The trench filled with mud and weeds which runs from Hog Pasture Railway Gate House to the river at Swavesey is called 'Navigation Drain'. In times gone by barges laden with coal were able to come along and unload, now not even a child's toy boat could navigate its mud. All the large drains for carrying off flood water are terribly neglected apart from the one at Church Bridge where the new and much-needed sewer empties. The District Council do a bit of tinkering now and again but never attempt to clear the ends near the river 11 08 25h

1911 09 15

The want of water is being seriously felt in Swavesey. All the ponds are practically dry and private pumps are running short. Several farmers have had the new water supply laid on to their yards and fields, and have derived great benefit thereby. The public pumps of the old water supply, hitherto only allowed to be drawn upon for domestic purposes, have been used for farm purposes and have allowed many farmers to obtain water for stock which otherwise have to have been fetched from the river. 11 09 15e

1911 09 15

Culpan, Swavesey blacksmith, pulls cow from drain

1911 09 22

The man in charge of a horse and cart belonging to Prime Godfrey went to the school pond, Swavesey, to water his animal. The pond is nearly empty, there being only a little water on the side farthest from the road. The horse got into the mud and in its struggles became embedded deeper and deeper in the thick mire the cart seeming to hold it down. But eight or nine men hauled for all they were worth and pulled it out. 11 09 22f

1911 10 13

Another Swavesey young man has left to try his fortune beyond the seas. Fred Wilderspin is to sail from the Albert Docks, London, to Queensland. Brought up a farmer he intended to learn Australian methods and then go in for sugar and banana growing. He will be much missed: he was one of the founders of the dancing classes and their success was due to his efforts 11 10 13d

1911 11 10

A labourer was charged with stealing cultivated mushrooms from a field in Swavesey. The defendant claimed they were only meadow mushrooms: they'd not been covered with straw and there was no artificial heat. Field mushrooms sold for twopence a pound, cultivated ones were eighteen pence. But Arthur Norman said that he'd planted mushroom spawn and put up notices saying trespassers would be prosecuted. The man was found guilty and fined one pound plus costs 11 11 10c

1911 12 22

Swavesey dispute over hedge between Bartley, solicitor and Worboys, farmer - refers to Enclosure award – 11 12 22c

1912 01 05

The old year was tolled out at Swavesey and the New Year rung in by the bells of the parish church. At the evening service the Vicar made special reference to the loss the parish had sustained by the death of Mr H. Beaumont and John Williams who had held the offices of schoolmaster and organist. The Black Horse Inn closed its doors as a public house for the last time having been closed under the Compensation Act. No less than eight licensed houses have been shut up within the last few years. And at Swavesey station yard a number of live queen wasps were found in some heaps of granite. They were promptly destroyed 12 01 05i

1912 01 12

The year 1911 was notable in Swavesey. A new water supply was peacefully laid on in spite of meetings and threats of angry opposition. The water appears to have given satisfaction, but the cost of it does not. Farmers found it invaluable for the stock when ponds were empty in the prolonged summer drought. Mr C. Wood succeeded H. Beaumont as headmaster but the Bethel Baptist Chapel was pastorless for a lengthy period and the Parish Council was also without a chairman 12 01 12f

1912 05 17

Swavesey parish council considered whether to postpone the village feast in view of the outbreak of scarlet fever in Market Street. It was their duty to prevent the spread of the disease by visitors and the show people carrying infection away with them. Perhaps Thurston's could sprinkle the platforms of their roundabouts with disinfectant and disinfect the money given them. It was agreed to place advertisements in the Weekly News warning visitors and urging parents not to allow their children to attend. 12 05 17f

1912 05 24

The warnings about scarlet fever had the effect of keeping both visitors and show people away and Swavesey feast can hardly be said to have taken place at all. On Sunday the streets were quieter than usual, on Monday just three stalls and a cocoanut shy were erected. An enterprising tradesman from Cambridge put in an appearance but soon packed up, disappointed. With the exception of a religious meeting in Market Street on Sunday night, cricket matches at which the attendance was small, were the only gatherings of interest. The team from Hilton arrived four men short but played well. Despite rumours that five persons had died of the fever it has only been the mildest infection. 12 05 24j

1912 05 24

Swavesey feast – 12 05 24j

1912 06 21

Swavesey thunderstorm; cricket match men v wives – 12 06 21e

1912 07 12

A Swavesey victim of scarlet fever describes her experiences: I passed into an atmosphere of disinfectants, then followed a few days in bed and a diet of 'slops', which I was not very keen on. I awaited the rash, which gradually appeared, and then the interesting stage called 'peeling' after which I was allowed to get up and view the world from the upper windows. The last three weeks is spent in quiet seclusion in the garden until at last comes the order for release and the whole house (including the recent invalid) reeks with the aroma of disinfectants. You are free from infection and can once more mix with the world. 12 07 12l

1912 07 26

Kirtling had three public houses, the Beehive, Queen's Head and the Red Lion with a licensed house in the hamlet of Upend nearly a mile away. Dr Wikins had his surgery at the Beehive and some of his patients had their meals there, Methodist preachers left their horses there – although most now cycle. It was the most convenient for the men visiting Perrin's smithy and the allotments. All the principal people of the village – apart from the parson – had signed a memorial to keep it, licensing magistrates were told. Also : Licensing: Steeple Morden Hill House, Cherry Hinton Russian Arms, Swavesey Red Lion, Cambridge: Duke of Gloucester Prospect Row, Rose & Crown & Windmill in Russell St, Danish Flag in Fitzroy St, Lamb in Guildhall St (details), Compasses in East Road 12 07 26 o&p

1912 08 16

An open air meeting was held at Swavesey in the cause of women's suffrage. The gathering should have been in a field but in consequence of the damp grass it was held on the road. The platform was a chair placed against a gate in Middle Watch and about 70 people attended, young ladies being mainly in evidence. Mrs Rackham's speech was eloquent and moderate in tone but it evoked no enthusiasm;

there were no interruptions and no questions at the end. But a few gave in their names as 'friends of women's suffrage' and leaflets were distributed 12 08 16d

1912 08 30

Floods Swavesey, Cottenham, Royston, Melbourn, Arrington, Histon, St Ives – 12 08 30h

1912 09 20

Swavesey has been little affected by the grand manoeuvres; a plane passed over and on three armed cyclists scouts rode through. But a village man driving a load of crates of empty beer bottles along the Huntingdon Road was captured by a detachment of soldiers. When first challenged he was not inclined to stop, but speedily did so when he had to look down the barrels of rifles. After the cart was overhauled he was allowed to proceed 12 09 20n

1912 10 18

St Ives Midsummer Fair, Swavesey Swan Pond horse – 12 10 18l

1912 10 25

Histon needs street lights; Swavesey church new stove – 12 10 25e

1912 11 01

A tragic and dramatic occurrence took place at a funeral at Over. On the way to the church one of the bearers suddenly fell to the ground, dropping the corner of the coffin. Thinking he had only fainted the procession continued on the way to the church, one or two friends remaining behind to render what aid they could. However the man never regained consciousness and died within a few minutes. A platelayer on the Great Eastern Railway, he was always thought to be a strong man of perfect health. No inquest is to be held, Dr Ellis of Swavesey having certified that death was due to heart failure 12 11 01

1912 11 01

Swavesey tradesmen, who are compelled by law to close their shops on Thursday afternoon, are inquiring why traders from other places are allowed to hawk goods in the village at that time. Last week men with a large van belonging to a Cambridge tradesmen, who presumably had to close his shop on Thursdays, went from end to end selling oil, soap, candles, tin ware and other commodities, all of which Swavesey tradesmen supply. This is unjust. The County Council should fix one early-closing day for the whole county instead of leaving every parish to choose its own. 12 11 01l

1912 11 15

Licensing compensation for Steeple Morden Hill House, Cherry Hinton Russian Arms, Swavesey Red Lion, Cambridge Duke of Gloucester, Windmill, Danish Flag & Compasses – 12 11 15

1912 11 15

Occupiers of low-lying land in Swavesey will be glad to learn that important steps have been taken to lessen the damage caused by floods at the Swan Pond and High Street. Doors will be erected at Over Bridge to stop the Bedford water from flowing into Cow Fen. The six cottages at Turn Bridge, the occupants of which have to flit on the occasion of a high flood, will no longer be in danger of inundation. But four cottages at Church End and another at Ramper Road have been condemned as insanitary although there is no other housing available and so the disturbed residents will be offered the hospitality of the workhouse 12 11 15f also Trinity College farm fire caused by Pamplins traction engine driving threshing machine

1912 12 12

Sir - The condition of one of the footbridge leading from Market Street to the path at Swavesey is giving cause for concern. The planks are rotten and spring dangerously though a support having broken away by reason of old age. The brook is now full of water and I tremble to think of what might happen if it gave way under the weight of a massive person – there are some in the village. The bridge

is used every winter night by the parish lamp-lighter and we value this active official too highly to wish him to endanger his life in the public service, or even get a ducking. – Correspondent – 12 12 12h

1913 01 03

Swavesey Swan Pond – 13 01 03c

1913 02 07

Swavesey donkey

1913 02 14

County pubs closed: Cottenham Red Lion, Dry Drayton Five Bells, Girton White Horse, Harston Pemberton Arms, Over Black Horse & Sow & Pigs, Swavesey Little Rose & Willingham Black Lion

1913 03 07

Swavesey disaster appeal

Swavesey fire *

1913 03 14

Rural housing – Miss Cochrane - conditions changed and required higher standard of comfort, slides, A.C. Campkin . The living room should face east or south-east; in the country larger pantries were required because larger supplies had to be purchased at one time. The pantry should face the north. A small scullery was also wanted. Three bedrooms were required and a parlour was a great delight to housewives, but it meant more on the rent. Four cottages had been built at Whittlesford for £520. At Swavesey 50 cottages had been removed and new ones not built. It was no use pulling down places without new ones being put up. The population had gone down and until they had more houses the young men would not come back from the town, and many of them were unable to marry because they had no houses to go to 13 03 14

1913 03 14

Swavesey disaster collections

1913 03 14

Licensing sessions - Over Black Horse – Frederick Webster, farmer employed a number of men who used the house; the yard was a great convenience for traffic, Sow & Pigs. Harston Pemberton Arms – people left horses when went away by train. Swavesey Little Rose. Dry Drayton Five Bells. Willingham Black Lion. Cottenham Red Lion. Girton White Horse

1913 03 14

Swavesey fire engine and Homelight oil wagon *

1913 03 21

Swavesey housing problems

1912 03 21

Messrs Hockey, the well-known Cambridge house agents testified that the owner of no.15 Lyndewode Road had asked them to sell her house. They sent particulars to 26 clients including Mr Neal who asked them to establish the lowest price, which was £1,000. Later the owner said she had sold it privately and disputed payment of their commission, offering three guineas instead. Hockey's agreed, providing it was not sold to Mr Neal. But he had bought it for £900 13 03 21

1912 03 24

Swavesey parish council discussed the late disastrous fire. The village engine was in good working order, but the pipes were defective. The landlord of The Swan presented a bill for 13 shillings for beer supplied to the fire fighters. They must pay the 31 men who had fought the fire to get them to work

again if required. A number had left the Swavesey fire engine and worked on the St Ives one instead.
13 03 24

1913 04 04

H.S. Aldred, grocer and draper at Swavesey, has sold postage stamps for 17 years, saving people a long walk to the post office. But after the village post office closed on Saturday afternoon people were told to journey to Over for stamps. When the postal authorities were told Mr Aldred was a licensed vendor of stamps he was asked to produce his licence. But it had been mislaid and he must now produce a bond of £100 for a new one. This he declines to do as he has to buy the stamps with hard cash at the same price he sells them; he gains no profit but is put to inconvenience by doing the work of the Post Office and obliging the public. Now residents of Boxworth End will have a long walk to obtain a stamp.

1913 04 11 Swavesey housing – RDC or private enterprise, how many needed

1913 06 06

Swavesey fire fund

Sir – considerable dissatisfaction has been expressed that the distribution of wearing apparel collected by the Swavesey Fire Relief Fund, was not carried out in a fair and just manner. Clothes which were given for distribution amongst the sufferers were sold at a rummage sale, held before the men had returned from the fields, at ridiculous prices. A lady's costume in perfectly good condition was sold for half-a-crown and coats and jackets for a shilling or sixpence. Cash is more easily distributed than clothes but would not a costume worth at the very least 15 shillings be of more value to a woman who wanted clothes than the half-crown it realised. – A Subscriber. Site for erection of house agreed

1913 06 13

Swavesey fire relief

1913 07 04

Friends of the Bethel Baptist Chapel Swavesey held services in the spacious barn of Trinity College Farm. Renovations at the Chapel were discontinued last week owing to the discovery that much extra work would be necessary and rumours spread that work has been abandoned. But it will definitely go ahead and a thoroughly substantial building will be the result 13 07 04

1913 07 25

Cambridgeshire licensing; includes Melbourn Tailor's Arms, Over Black Horse, Swavesey Lt Rose, Cambridge Place Three Pigeons 13 07 25

1913 07 25

Swavesey 'new town' springing up following fire

1913 10 10

Swavesey Bethel Baptist Chapel reopened after an extensive and costly restoration. The building, erected in 1868, has of late years shown signs of serious decay. A few years ago extensive repairs were carried out on the flooring which was badly affected with dry rot. But this was unavailing and the chapel was found to be in a dangerous condition as regards both walls and floors. The whole had to be removed and replaced which cost a great deal of money. Now concrete foundations have been put in, the floor relaid and windows filled with tinted leaded lights. A new boiler and seats have also been installed. During the closure services have been held in a large barn at Trinity College Farm 13 10 10

1913 11 31

Swavesey stack fire

1913 11 31

Swavesey payment to workers at stack fire

1913 11 21

Swavesey relief fund criticisms

1914 01 02

Swavesey Parish Council, who got into trouble over the stack fire in August through their desire to save the rates at the expense of the workers, seem to be pursuing a similar policy. The cheque from the insurance company for payment of helpers at the fire in Market Street earlier in October was handed over to them three weeks ago, yet no steps have been taken to disburse the money. Meanwhile the new fire hose, hydrant etc have been received from the manufacturer and inquiries are being made as to when members of the new Fire Brigade will be instructed in their use. An absolutely untrained brigade will be of little practical use in case of fire 14 01 02f

1914 01 09

Swavesey church to issue appeal for urgent repairs 14 01 09i

1914 01 09

About four weeks ago the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Office sent a cheque to Swavesey Parish Council for payment of workers at a stack fire in Market Street early in October. Still none of them have been paid and no explanation for the delay issued. The small sum would have been useful during the Christmas season. The Councillors' inaction seems inexplicable coming as it does after the trouble caused by their attempt to retain for other purposes more than half the money granted by the Liverpool, London and Globe Fire Office for remuneration of helpers at a stack fire in August. Has the Parish Council retired? 14 01 09i

1914 01 16

Three thatched, stud and plaster cottages in Middle Watch, Swavesey, were destroyed by fire on Friday night. One had been recently faced with brick and rethatched – the thatchers had not quite completed their work. The other two were part of the Docksey estate. The alarm was quickly given and the parish fire engine arrived about 40 minutes later. It was got to work soon afterwards but was not manned by the usual force of men, the team including several lads and boys. The men who usually work the engine were unwilling to do so as they have not been paid by the Parish Council for previous fires. 14 01 16

1914 01 16

Sir – I wish to correct some reports referring to the fire in Middle Watch, Swavesey. I was at the engine house where men were so eager to get to the scene of the fire they wanted to leave before all the hose could be packed and pulled the engine along themselves, declining the use of a horse thinking it would waste time to harness it. The engine was kept working for an hour without a stop which proves they were sufficiently strong and capable for the work. And no Parish Councillor warned your reporter not to publish any more 'sneering remarks over this fire'; if the full conversation had been published it would have altered the sense altogether – E. Clark 14 01 16

1914 01 16

Four weeks ago the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Office sent a cheque to Swavesey Parish Council for payment of workers at a stack fire early in October. Still none of them have been paid. The Councillors' inaction seems inexplicable coming as it does after the trouble caused by their attempt to retain more than half the money granted by the Liverpool, London and Globe Fire Office for remuneration of helpers at a stack fire in August. Has the Parish Council retired?

1914 01 16

Swavesey fire relief fund charity – new provision – 14 01 16f

1914 01 16

Another Fire at Swavesey. A portion of the village of Swavesey was involved in a fire on Friday night, when three cottages in Middle Watch were destroyed and 16 persons were rendered homeless. But for the fact that the wind was light and was blowing the sparks and flames away from other property, the village must have suffered more seriously from the effects of the blaze. The district cannot be described as a congested area, but flying sparks are at times a menace to surrounding property, particularly in a neighbourhood where many of the cottages are thatched, and are composed largely of stud and plaster. But the greatest menace to Swavesey's safety on Friday was the fact that the men of the village, considering that they had a grievance with the Parish Council in respect to the non-payment to them of money received from fire insurance companies in acknowledgement of services rendered by local men at a previous fire, refused to assist with the pumping of the manual engine

1914 01 23

Swavesey parish council lively discussions on fire relief scheme – let the village burn – 14 01 23d

1914 01 23

Swavesey rebuilt: photo showing repairs after fire – 14 01 23g

1914 02 06

Joseph Jillings, 89, was one of those unfortunate persons who were burned out in the great Swavesey fire of March 1913 and, being in a very feeble state of health and having no relatives to look after him, was removed to St Ives infirmary. He was the oldest parishioner and returned to the village 20 years ago after many years as a gentleman's servant. Through the generosity of the Vicar collections were made so that the old man's desire that he should not be buried by the parish could be complied with. 14 02 06g

1914 03 13

Fire. — Swavesey was alarmed on Sunday by the rumour of fire, and according to the story, a big blaze was in progress. However, rumour appeared to be very wide of the mark, the tremendous fire being a chimney beam blaze at the New Inn which was quickly extinguished 1914 03 13 CIPof

1914 03 13

Accident. — An accident, which might have had a serious and even fatal ending, happened to Mr. A. Fisher (at Swavesey) on Saturday. While engaged in lopping some large elms belonging to Mr. J. Wells Mr. Fisher overbalanced and fell a distance of 40 feet to the ground. His fall was partly broken by a branch and the ladder and he fell on fairly soft ground and was happily not so seriously hurt as was at first imagined a badly sprained wrist and bruises being the worst effects. 1914 03 13 CIPof

1914 04 03

Swavesey parish council had a well-attended long and lively meeting after the village crier had given notice that the workers at the fire in Middle Watch would be paid. About 30 men and youths received sums of up to 24 shillings. The question of the wholesale resignation of the Fire Brigade led to trouble between the Chairman and a councillor who bluntly told him to mind his own business. The sole remaining member of the Fire Brigade Committee said it was unfair to leave him alone to deal with a fire. He was assured none would break out. 14 04 03e & f

1914 04 10

Swavesey parish council – 14 04 10b

1914 04 10

The fire at Lt Chesterford practically repast the disaster that occurred at Swavesey last year. In these days of slated and tiled roofs, fires of this magnitude are comparatively rare but in the 'good of days' it was not uncommon for a dozen cottages to be destroyed in a single outbreak. Villages like Chesterford have been largely left alone by the modern builder and are still open to the danger of

annihilation. Only on Monday a public house and two cottages were burned down at Newport. Soon perhaps the thatched cottages will have disappeared altogether save for isolated specimens regarded as curiosities. 14 04 10c

1914 04 10

Swavesey drove letting – animals driven by children not under proper control – 14 04 10g

1914 05 01

Swavesey hand-hearse secured by Swavesey undertaker – 14 05 01

1914 05 01

The little child of Mr A.G. Prime had a narrow escape from death by drowning at Swavesey. His mother was wheeling the babe in a perambulator near Moor Fen Gatehouse and stopped to tie the bootlace of her small son who was walking beside her. The roadway sloped from the railway gates so she turned the perambulator crossways to prevent it running away. But a goods train passed and shook the carriage which ran into a deep ditch close by. The strap broke and the child fell out. Without a moment's hesitation Mrs Prime jumped into the mud and water to rescue her son 14 05 01a

1914 06 19

Feast. The feast was held at Lolworth this week, and many friends and relatives of the villagers assembled as usual to greet old friends and acquaintances. There were the usual stalls and swingboats for the edification of the younger generation. On Monday, Lolworth played Swavesey at home in a cricket match, and were defeated by one run. – 1914 06 19 CIPof

1914 07 24

Field Day.—The Voluntary Aid Detachments from Over, Willingham, Cottenham, Swavesey and Fen Drayton held a field day at Swavesey on Saturday last. The school was turned into a field hospital and a goods shed at the station into an entraining depot. Field kitchens were erected on the Green, and nurses in uniform were busily engaged in relieving the wounded. As the cases were operated and dressed, the field ambulance wagon removed them to the entraining station. – 1914 07 24 CIPof

1914 09 11

Enlistment – Lolworth, Boxworth, Over, Bourn, Linton, Cottenham, Elsworth, Swavesey, Bottisham, Longstanton, Sawston, Comberton, Waterbeach

1914 10 30

Belgians – Waterbeach not help, Soham arrivals, Burwell, Bourn, Cottenham, Duxford, Gamlingay, Gt Eversden, Histon, Linton, Over, Sawston, Swavesey, Chatteris, Cheveley

1914 11 06

Belgians – Littleport, Burwell, Chatteris, Duxford, Comberton, Sawston, Elsworth, Fen Drayton, Swavesey, Fordham, West Wickham, Wicken, Gamlingay, Willingham, Madingley, Isleham, Landbeach, Linton, Lode, Oakington,

1914 11 06

Letters from front, include Swavesey – Goad *

1914 11 27

Swavesey Red Cross depot

1914 12 11

Swavesey gale damages railway

1914 12 18

Swavesey Crisp letter front

1915 09 17

J. Veal, Ely wounded when trench blown up, Swavesey letters Beaumont, Girling

1916 02 16

Ely railway accident, Willow Walk, when signal falls on track – 16 09 16a

1916 09 16

Swavesey VAD photo feature – 16 09 16b

1918 03 06

County licensing – Tailor's Arms Comberton, Garden Gate at Histon, Horseshoe Fen Drayton, Swan with Two Necks Swavesey, Harvest Home Oakington referred – 18 03 06b, c

1918 07 24

Licensing meeting; Star Brewery's Racehorse renewed, Earl of Durham on Newmarket Road; Johnny Gilpin, Gold Street; Horseshoe, Fen Drayton; Swan with Two Necks, Swavesey; Garden Gate, Histon closed; Harvest Home, Oakington renewed – 18 07 24a

1918 12 11

40 cases a day.—Wordsworth Grove Hospital, Cambridge, has been fortunate in having the Newnham gymnasium lent to them for their massage and electrical department, a large, airy bright building where between 30 and 40 cases a day are treated—men in hospital in the mornings, and out-patients and discharged soldiers in the afternoons from Swavesey, Newton, Harston, Duxford and outlying villages. The treatments are massage, galvanism and Faradism, radiant heat, hot air and ionisations and exercise. The work here, as in all other Red Cross Hospitals in the county, is carried on under the supervision of Miss Laven, who has been untiring in her efforts on behalf of the wounded ever since the outbreak of war.

1922 09 09

The good people of Swavesey fairly let themselves in for it this year when they dispatched miniature balloons at the flower show Last week a letter was received from a German pastor begging that a collection might be made in Swavesey to help repair his church organ. This week Mr C. Wood, the Swavesey headmaster had received another letter from Westphalia which reads: "We Germans are now a poor and unhappy people and we cannot find any pleasure in life. In consequence of the war our German money is now valueless. I am a poor tradesman with a large family to support. If you and your friends are living in poor circumstances you have my greatest sympathy; but should you and your friends be well-to-do people I pray you to remember my neediness"

1924 01 30

Swavesey fire

1924 03 04c

An exhumation is usually associated with something grim and sinister, but that at Over churchyard was of a reverent and honourable nature. In 1916 an enforced sojourner owing to the German occupation of Northern France passed away and was buried in what his relatives regarded as foreign soil. Now the opportunity has arrived of having his remains re-interred in his own beloved country. A French coffin was delivered at Swavesey railway station nearly a fortnight ago. After the exhumation the grave was again filled in and the tombstone re-erected.

1924 05 14

Swavesey war memorial hall was formally opened. It was a day that will long be remembered, for not only does the new hall provide a lasting reminder of those who gave their lives for the country, but it will do a lot to make those who came back much happier. Swavesey was sadly in need of a place where social and educational functions could be held with the maximum of comfort, and here this

pressing need is splendidly fulfilled. A large ground floor room is capable of seating about 400 people, while there is an extensive balcony, which is fitted up as a billiards room.

1924 06 07

The landlord of the New Inn Swavesey was summoned for riding a cycle without a light. It was on the night of the village feast and he was seen hanging on to a motor cycle, with two other cyclists at the time. Defendant explained that he lit his lamp against the Black Horse. He took hold of his friend's shoulder, who was on a motor cycle, and his light went out against the Sun public house owing to a bump in the surface of the road, where it was being repaired. Fined 5s.

1924 11 18

Compensation was approved in respect of six licensed houses, which have been closed. They were The King's head, Cottenham, The Dolphin, Waterbeach, The Little Rose at Swavesey, The Coach and Horse, Linton, The Morning Star at Sawston & The Duke of Wellington in Cambridge, licensee Mr A.S. Scales where compensation was agreed at £1,000.

1925 04 18

When attempting to pass one of Messrs Course's St Ives motor buses near the New Inn, Swavesey, Mr James Tanfield who was riding a Douglas motor cycle combination collided with a telegraph post. The bus had been keeping in the centre of the road, and in trying to pass he ran his cycle on to the grass roadside, the wheel of the sidecar remaining on the road. The front wheel ran into a draining grip and caused the machine to collide with the post.

1925 06 20

Swavesey church is a very fine structure, nearly 600 years old, and work of restoration has been carried out during recent years under the supervision of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, but much remains to be done. The roof of the north and south aisles are in urgent need of attention, work involving a heavy expenditure. At the annual garden fete and sale of work Miss Lucy Dunn recalls that during her residence in the village there were great floods, necessitating the use of planks and boats to move from the houses.

1926 01 18

Skating has been in full swing over the weekend. The Cambridge Sewage Farm has been the rendezvous of the majority of skaters and on Sunday over 500 skaters were 'on' in the afternoon. Mr Nicholls' field in Grantchester Meadows was flooded and many skaters availed themselves of the opportunity it offered, whilst others went over to Swavesey. Hundreds indulged in winter sports on the slopes of Royston Heath, tobogganing and ski-ing were general

1927 01 27

Swavesey RDC have built eight houses under the assisted scheme and sites had now been selected for six houses at Swavesey and four at Conington which was plenty for that village. Over did not require any and Boxworth and Lolworth had 16 thoroughly good cottages and there was no need for fresh houses. They had the Bourn water supply put on. The cost to supply water to Hatley St George would be about £40; were they justified in laying such a large burden on a small village with only about a dozen cottages.

1927 07 19

Swavesey railway station was the scene of an accident. A horse and empty cart belonging to Mr Jabez Day, farmer and fruitgrower, was standing near the up-platform when the horse backed the cart into a large pile of baskets of fruit, upsetting the contents, and then fell on the line, dragging the cart with it. A train was rapidly approaching the station & the leading coach struck the horse and cart. The coach was derailed, the cart reduced to fragments of splintered wood and the horse so badly injured that it died in a short time. A breakdown gang from Cambridge soon cleared the down line on which both up and down trains had to travel, piloted by Mr H. Whitehead, the Swavesey stationmaster.

1928 06 16

Damage estimated at £100 was caused by a fire which broke out at Swavesey. Smoke and flames were seen coming from the premises of James Prior, a furniture dealer of Boxworth End. Neighbours and men working in the fields brought pails of water and rendered what assistance they could and the Swavesey Fire Brigade were soon on the scene with hose and hydrant. A Morris commercial van, a horse trolley and sheds were burnt as also a lot of furniture, fruit baskets and carpenter's tools. Thatched cottages nearby were in great danger owing to sparks and a man named Thorp climbed on to the roof from where he played water. The fire is believed to have been caused by two little children playing with matches.

1928 07 04

The Clerk of Swavesey District Council read an anonymous letter expressing surprise that Swavesey was more highly rated than any other parish in the district. The Chairman said that it was a very expensive parish and if ratepayers were not satisfied with the efforts of the Council to keep the place in a sanitary condition they would have to get a qualified man able to drain the fens and who would be an additional expense. The statements were misleading and Council should take no notice of what they saw in the papers. If every little thing going on was reported they had better say nothing.

1930 01 17

The R100 airship which made a long flight from Cardington in fog was seen as a fleeting but fascinating object over Swavesey. Emerging from the mist like a spectre of the sky, the giant vessel attracted admiring attention as the sun glinted on her silvery nose, which, approaching head-on, was turned into the semblance of a full moon. She circled round the locality before disappearing in the fog in the direction of St Ives. 30 01 17

1930 11 25

Mystery attaches to two outbreaks of fire which occurred shortly after midnight within three-quarters of a mile of one another. The first was at Mr Scambler's farm, Fen Drayton and caused considerable damage to stacks, barns and outhouses. Wind carried sparks all over the village and three cottages were cleared. Then another fire was spotted in four haystacks at Boxworth-End, Swavesey but as they were well-alight and there were no buildings nearby the brigade kept their efforts concentrated on the other fire. 30 11 25b

1931 04 24

In 1820 there were seven fully-licensed public houses in Swavesey including 'The Swan with Two Necks', 'George and Dragon' and 'Rose and Crown'. Later another 14 were added including 'The Railroad Hotel', 'The Sir Harry Smith', 'Black Bull' and 'Red Lion'. All have now been closed with the exception of the 'White Horse'. 'Sun', 'Blue Bell' and 'New Inn'. 31 04 24g

1931 09 25

Sir – Swavesey people should be given details of the fate of their church bells. When asked, one member of the church council replied that 'he wasn't at liberty to say', yet this same person found the atmosphere of the hairdresser's shop in a neighbouring village so congenial that Over people were given full particulars. Unfortunately for him, Swavesey people were also present. The bells are to be removed to a foundry, but will not return with the same lovely tone as now. Why were not the ringers asked their opinion first? – 'Lucilius'. 31 09 25j

1931 12 11

A Band of Hope meeting in the Bethel Baptist Church, Swavesey welcomed Mr and Mrs David Moore and their programme of moving pictures. Mrs Moore deplored the fact that the gambling spirit was so rife and a scientific film showed the narcotic effect of alcohol. Pictures of the Skegness excursion gave great delight as many people saw themselves on the screen. They were followed by film of a garden party in Christ's College and the colleges in their winter mantle of snow. 31 12 11g

1932 07 29

The old bells of Swavesey church have been tuned and re-hung on a steel frame with ball bearings which lessens the work of the ringers very considerably. They have been in the church for about 180 years and were originally fitted by Messrs Gillet and Johnson of Croydon. A new floor has also been laid under the bells which makes their tone more pleasant. 32 07 29h

1932 08 12

Swavesey land dispute – 32 08 12f

1932 08 26

Sir - Swavesey RDC repaired the bridge at Webb's Hole some years ago but have for a long time been lax in looking after it. How many of the old rights of way between Swavesey and the Ouse are now available for the public. Where are the stiles? How much is left of the footbridge over Covill's drain on the right of way to Holywell Ferry and is it possible to get to Overcote across Middle Fen, as in days gone by? – Fisherman. 32 08 26j

1932 09 30

Swavesey hedges dispute – 32 09 30a & b

1932 11 11

One man meeting – Swavesey RC meeting – 32 11 11a

1933 01 10

The 1925 Tithe Act was one of the greatest injustices imposed on farmers, fixing the amount they had to pay irrespective of the price of farm produce. Land was being let for four shillings and acre but was subject to three-and-six tithe. The landowner could not keep the house and gates in repair for sixpence an acre, a Tithe payers meeting at Swavesey was told. 33 01 10a & b

1933 01 27

Swavesey land dispute – 33 01 27

1933 04 19

Cambridgeshire police are losing a valued officer by the retirement of P.S. Sidney Smith. He joined the force in 1907 and was stationed at Eltisley, Swavesey, Willingham and Fen Ditton before being promoted to sergeant in 1926 and moving to Melbourn. He will be missed by motorists, for he has had more motor cases than anyone else in the county. 33 04 19

1933 05 12

A Peterborough pilot had a fortunate escape from serious injury when the aeroplane in which he was flying solo crashed in Manor Farm, Swavesey. When passing over the village he lost his way and dropped down close by the station in an endeavour to find his position. In avoiding one belt of trees he collided with another and crashed almost on the railway line. Railwaymen rushed to his assistance and he was taken to Dr Hart in Mr W. Hind's milk van, which happened to be passing. 33 05 12

1933 08 11

Swavesey show & sports – 33 08 11

1933 12 06

The Medical Officer reported on the housing conditions of Swavesey district. At Lolworth there were four cottages belonging to Clare College which needed repair, together with six in School Lane and four others known as Grape Vine Cottages which needed demolishing. In Conington two cottages, one known as Kate's Cabin were to be amalgamated and Rectory Cottage was also to be improved. At Fen Drayton three cottages opposite the school had been condemned as had two at the Green Man and two in Wallman's Lane, Swavesey. One cottage at Station Road, Over, would not last another five years. 33 12 06

1934 01 02

Fire at a barn on Mordaunt House Farm, Swavesey, forced occupants of two nearby cottages to remove their furniture when their houses were threatened. The Fire Brigade was hampered by fog and rain and on arrival had to break half-an-inch thick ice before they were able to obtain water. They were unable to save the barn which contained hay, an oil engine and agricultural implements. Earlier they had been called to an empty house in Parsonage Street, Cambridge which was being made ready for occupation. 34 01 02

1935 07 09

Roy Godfrey, son of the Swavesey Haulage Contractor, has been awarded an autographed Hobbs bat for his fine all-round performance in the 'News Chronicle' cricket competition for schoolboys. Playing for St Ives Grammar School he scored 46 runs and took six wickets for eight runs. He also took a difficult catch off a fast rising ball. Roy's performance is remarkable, as he lost his right arm as a result of an accident when he was five years old 35 07 09a

1935 09 11

Swavesey stationmaster appointed – 35 09 11

1936 08 20

Over and Swavesey Skating Association was presented with a 50-guinea solid silver trophy to be known as The Chicago Cup for the English Grand Prix. It will be competed for by amateur skaters from all England over a course of one-and-a-half miles with three turns. The donor, Mr C.A. King, is a native of Over who has spent many years in America. He has taken a great interest in skating throughout his life and has previous given two other Chicago Cups for local competitions. 36 08 20

1937 01 08

Tribute was paid to a water-diviner at the opening of Over's new water works. After one bore had been sunk unsuccessfully the Chairman of the Parish Council contacted Mr Charles Adams and when he was walking with his 'magic twigs' they twisted violently. The well was sunk in that position. They had originally wanted a supply from the East Hunts Water Company but this meant paying Swavesey for the use of their main and they had charged too much. The new station had two pumps which stopped and started automatically when the level in the water tower dropped. 37 01 08 & a

1937 05 22

A wages tribunal was told that agriculture in the Isle of Ely was totally different from Cambridgeshire; the soil was more productive, the crops were apt to be heavier, the type of agriculture was more profitable. And yet there was a uniformed rate of wages for workers in both areas. Budgets were considered of families from Castle Camps, Swavesey and March where the father of a family of five earned only 35s 6d a week clear; he'd had had no Sunday suit or boots for six years 37 05 22 & a

1937 07 20

A Swavesey grocer told the bankruptcy court that in 1913 he'd bought his house which had been damaged by fire at both ends and had restored it. He started in business in 1925. But trade declined during the agricultural depression and competition became very keen with various stores sending out vans and calling from door to door. Then buses began to take customers to St Ives and Cambridge where they did their shopping and took the opportunity of having a cheap day out. This was the last straw: the bus service was doing great damage to many small shops in villages 37 07 20

1937 10 13

County Council proposals for the establishment of village colleges at Swavesey and Impington have been approved by the Government. But they reject plans for a new junior school at Cottenham: it would be better to use the money from Insurance to rebuild portions of the burnt down one. Negotiation would be opened with Cottenham Eleemosynary Charities for the purchase of land in

Lamb's Lane. The County would also discuss with the Air Ministry about school-age children due to arrive in Bassingbourn in connection with the establishment of an aerodrome 37 10 13c

1938 11 24

During the recent gale the roof of St Barnabas' Institute was damaged, bricks blown from a chimney stack at Hawkins' shop on the corner of Gold Street and a chimney pot lifted clean off a house in Sturton Street. Extensive damage was also caused to two shops at Green End Road. Haystacks, especially those unthatched, suffered badly and a furniture lorry was blown over near the Swavesey turning when the gale was at its height. 38 11 24a

1939 01 30

Flood levels in the fens remain high. At Waterbeach the Town Crier made a call for volunteers and rallied forty men to work on the banks of the Bottisham Lode. At Littleport station sleepers are covered and only the tops of the lines are showing. Goods trucks are standing with water beneath them. In the Holmes inhabitants have left before their houses were surrounded. At Swavesey Mow Fen and Middle Fen railway gatehouses have had to be evacuated. 39 01 30a

1939 02 02

Swavesey clock stopped, needs overhaul – 39 02 02a

1939 02 13

W. Kester, worked as signal man at Swavesey station for 43 years – 39 02 13

1939 11 30

Over possessed an obsolete Merryweather manual fire engine dated 1789 which with three lengths of unserviceable hose and eleven buckets was valued at £7 10s. Willingham's 1827 manual engine with trailer tank, ladders and hose was valued at rather more - £14. Other parish engines at Caxton, Cottenham, Horningsea, Oakington and Swavesey would be acquired by Chesterton District Council at the valuation price 39 11 30

1940 02 23

Distinguished Service Recognised. —It was officially announced on Wednesday that the King has approved the award of the Distinguished Medal to Sergeant Lionel Wood, R.A.F. Sergeant Wood, who is a son of Mr. Charles Wood, Headmaster of Swavesey Council School, was educated at the Cambridge and County High School for Boys.

1940 03 22

Father of Council. The Cambridgeshire County Council has lost its oldest member, not only in age, but in the number of years of service, by the death of Dr. Joseph Watson Ellis, who passed away suddenly early on Sunday afternoon. He had not been well for some weeks, and latterly had been confined to bed. Born at Swavesey on June 10, 1853, the son of the late Dr. Robert Sage Ellis, he was educated at Epsom and Hurstpierpoint, and at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. On becoming qualified as a medical man, he was for a time house surgeon at the Huntingdon County Hospital until in January, 1877, he succeeded to the late Dr. Darnell's practice at Swavesey, and was also medical officer for the district. He retired from practice in May, 1927. At Swavesey, at one time or another during his long life, he held practically every public office including those of churchwarden, parish councillor, Gallon's Charity feoffee and school manager. In politics he was a strong Conservative, and was chairman of the local Association. He was greatly interested in all forms of sport. In his younger days he was a keen cricketer, and up to last summer rarely ever missed an important match at Fenner's. It was in 1891 that he was first elected to the County Council, defeating Mr. G. Long in the Electoral division. In 1895 Mr. Long turned the tables, but it was only for three years, and Dr. Ellis was again elected in 1898, since which time he has served without a break. He was elected an Alderman on March 18, 1922. During the long service Dr. Ellis was a member of the following committees: — Local Government, Maternity and Child Welfare, Public Health, Roads and Bridges and Standing Joint.

1940 03 29

Alderman's Funeral. The funeral of Aid. Dr. Joseph Watson Ellis, of Swavesey, "father" of the Cambs. County Council, took place on Thursday week at Swavesey Church. Dr. Ellis, who was 86 years of age, died on March 17. The funeral service was taken by the Rev. C. C. Dickson. A muffled peal was rung. The interment was in the churchyard.

1940 08 16

A Patriotic Family.—Mr. Sidney W. Wright of Askey Row, Swavesey, who served in the Army in the last war from 1915 to 1919, and was wounded on three occasions, is again, wearing His Majesty's uniform. With him this time are his seven sons, four of whom are with their father in the Home Guard, two are in the Army and the seventh is having some exciting experiences in a minesweeper.

1941 02 21

Another Swavesey D. F. C. Flying Officer Eric C. Barwell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Barwell, the Old House, Swavesey, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. After flying with the Cambridge Volunteer Reserve for a year, he was mobilised on the outbreak of war, and in December, 1939, he was granted a commission as pilot officer. He is a brother of Wing Cdr. Philip Barwell, who was awarded the D.F.C. in December, 1939

1941 10 10

Married 50 years,—Mr. and Mrs. Albert Pledger, of the Grange, Longstanton, and formerly of Church Street, Gamlingay, were married on September 28, 1891, and are now 76 and 77 respectively. To celebrate the event. 30 guests were entertained at "Rutholme", Swavesey, the home of their youngest daughter. The toast of the couple, who were in excellent health, was proposed by Mr. Victor Pledger, of Barkway, the youngest brother of Mr. Pledger, and the aged pair replied, thanking everyone for the flowers, presents and greetings which had been sent them.

1942 01 16

Three preachers at Oakington. A recent note of mine (says Watchman) has brought me the following interesting letter from Mr. H. Young, 5 Rampton Road, Cottenham.—"I was interested to read your account of a burial in an orchard at Waterbeach. At Oakington three Nonconformist preachers were buried in a garden near the parish church. They were the Revs. F. Holcroft, died 1692; Joseph Oddy, died 1697 and Henry Oasland, died 1711. Can any reader remember the date of the great Commemoration Festival held in a field, belonging to a Mr. Morris, to do honour to the memory of these three Nonconformist preachers? Dr. Green of Cambridge presided; the speakers were the Revs. J. C. Wells, of Cottenham; Flanders of Swavesey; King of Gransden; Neal of Waterbeach; Parish of Cottenham; Shaw of Over; and Mr. J. Smith, of Willingham, I have in my possession a book giving an account of the day's proceedings, and it would be interesting to know how many years ago this was. More than 2,000 people are said to have been present"

1942 04 10

Blacksmith's Death.—Swavesey and the surrounding district have lost a well-known personality by the death of Mr. Millice Charles Culpin, blacksmith, who passed away in Addenbrooke's Hospital aged 76 years. A son of the late Mr. M. C. Culpin, blacksmith, of St. Ives, as a young man he served in the Army and subsequently took over the blacksmith's and shoeing smith's business at Conington, Cambs. Thirty-seven years ago he removed to Swavesey. He had been in failing health for some time.

1942 05 15

Swavesey Young Man's Commission. Cadet D. V. Murray White, son of Mrs. C. Northrop, of Ingleton, Swavesey, and the late Captain White, has been granted a commission as Second Lieutenant' •in the Indian Army. He is 21 years of age. He was educated at Arnold House, Blackpool, and later at St. Ives Grammar School. After leaving school he was employed in the office of the well-known firm of Messrs. Tom M. Scotney, of St. Ives, and was a member of the Swavesey Home Guard until he volunteered for service in the Army.

1942 05 22

No Feast. That ancient festival Swavesey Feast, should have been celebrated this week, but owing to the war, it had to lapse. Not one showman's caravan put in an appearance, and visitors have been conspicuous by their absence. There have been no cricket matches, and no entertainment.

1942 07 17

Group Captain Barwell Dead. On the day after his 36th birthday. Group Captain Philip Reginald Barwell D.F.C. has been killed during an operational flight over the South Coast. A Swavesey man, Group Captain Barwell was, at the time of his appointment, the youngest of his rank in the R.A.F. Educated at Wellingborough, where he captained the Bisley eight, he obtained a short service commission in 1925. It was seven years later that his permanent commission was granted. As a fighter-pilot commanding his Squadron, he was awarded his D.F.C., and it is interesting to recall that the operational section which he commanded at the time of his death had more enemy machines to its credit than any other in Fighter Command. On June 22 this year he stood godfather to the daughter of his youngest brother, Squadron Leader E. G. Barwell. D-F.C. at Boxworth Church.

1942 11 20

Joy Bells for Victory. The bells of the Parish Church, Swavesey, long-silent as a war-time precaution, were rung from 9.30 to 10 a.m. in celebration of the British Army's victory in Egypt There were similar peals at various other churches

1942 12 18

Cyril R Vincent dies, 50 years associated with Cambridge newspapers CDN & CIP; lived at Swavesey where organised political and other functions. IN 1896 he became village correspondent for Swavesey, first in Cambridge Express then Cambridge Weekly News (later CIP and Chronicle). In 1922 was appointed to take charge of village correspondence at CDN; he kept a record of every paragraph sent in and could turn up any item at will. Retired to Malvern – 43 12 18

1943 07 09

44 Years' Railway Service. Mr. S. B. Carter, signalman, retired on June 5 after 44 years' railway service at Swavesey station. His genial disposition endeared him to his colleagues and traders alike and to mark the occasion they joined in presenting him with a pipe and a suitably inscribed electric clock as a token of their good wishes

1943 12 24

Fifty years with local Papers. - For nearly 50 years associated with the Cambridge newspapers, Mr. C.R. Vincent has died at Malvern at the age of 85. It was only two months ago that he relinquished his association with the "Cambridge Daily News" and "Independent Press," and past and present members of the staff joined warmly in a presentation to him on that occasion. Formerly engaged on clerical work with the Post Office Savings Bank Department in London., Mr. Vincent was obliged by health reasons .to give up his duties. He came down to Cambridgeshire and established his home in Swavesey, becoming, in 1898, village correspondent. In 1922 he was appointed to take charge of village correspondence at the head office of the newspapers. With over 70 villages in the county, his training in the Civil Service came in remarkably useful. It was his duty to keep a record of every paragraph sent in, and it was his proud boast that he could always turn up any item at will. Mr. Vincent gave a helping hand to Uncle Robin in the early days of the Robin Fellowship, and he was affectionately known in the office as "Uncle Cyril."

1944 07 14

Campanology. — By kind permission of the Vicar (the Rev. J. Basil-Wood), a 5,040 change peal was rung on the bells of St. Andrew's Swavesey on Saturday. This is believed to be the first full peal of doubles ever rung in this church.

1947 04 14

The question of a site for a village college at Swavesey was referred back to the General Purposes sub-committee (of the County Council). Subject to the consent of the Ministry 25 to 30 acres of the Manor Farm, Swavesey will be purchased as a site (the Manor House and farm buildings to be excluded from the sale). Coun. Johnson pointed out that the land did flood occasionally, at the same time he did not think they would find a better site.

1947 10 23

Fen Drayton's 97-years-old oldest inhabitant and two Darby-and Joan old-age pensioners were among the 98 victims of last Spring's flooding in the village who found themselves the possessors of several months' extra rations of butter and lard, as well as tins of sausage meat and dried milk. The food was the gift of the Mombasa Thank Offering to Britain Fund, whose local daily paper "The Mombasa Times" is edited by a former member of the "Cambridge Daily News" staff, Mr Ronald Roper. Similar distributions have been made at Willingham, Swavesey, Over and other places in the affected area

1948 09 30

The Ministry of Health advised Cambridgeshire Housing committee that the tender of Cambridge firm amounting to £11,111 should be accepted for the erection of eight houses at Swavesey, as this was the lowest based on Cambridge rates of pay. The work by another local firm was based on local Swavesey rates and would have involved additional expense. The vice-chairman said, "Not one foundation has been laid. Lowest tenders were accepted but some builders, for reasons unknown, found they had forgotten some items which they should have included, and they refused to go on with the houses on the prices they tendered. Sites are ready, plans passed and 1,000 people are waiting for 102 homes. Either the building industry is overloaded with work, or they want too much money for building our houses"

1949 10 28

The county council are to be recommended to take steps to obtain an order subjecting High Street Swavesey to a 30 mph speed limit. It will also be imposed in built up areas at Burwell, Isleham, Shepreth, Bassingbourn and Lt Abington. But they refused Kingston parish council's application for a speed limit there

1950 04 29

The Cambridge public health committee are to meet a deputation from the Communist Party on the question of raising the cost of baths from 6d to 9d at Gwydir Street public baths. This would raise the cost of living and be a further burden on the poor. The letter was supported by a petition with 300 signatures including people from Swavesey, Teversham and Cherry Hinton. The Mayor said: "People come further for a bath than I should imagine!"

1950 12 11

Cambridgeshire chief constable (Mr D. Arnold) told the Standing Joint Committee that he had had to refuse six suitable men because they were married with a family and there was nowhere for them to live. "I am still 15 under strength and I want that 15 badly", he said. Recruitment depended on whether the men would come forward, and the accommodation question. Tenders were considered for the erection of police houses at Fen Ditton, Swavesey and Willingham.

1951 12 12

Is an electric washing machine an essential in the educational development of children? The County Primary Education committee sought approval that machines should be hired from the Eastern Electricity Board at three guineas a time for the use of schools at Bassingbourn, Comberton and Swavesey. Councillors were equally divided. How many people were in an income bracket to afford a washing machine? Not many. The only way you can buy them after you have learned to use them is by the hire purchase system that people can ill-afford. It was approved on the casting vote of the chairman.

1952 09 10

Two Meteor jet aircraft collided in mid-air over Over. One of the pilots landed near the church & the other near the Pike and Eel public house. The landlady observed: "We often have pilots calling here – but not by parachute". The electricity supply was cut when one of the planes struck an electric cable in Mow Fen, Swavesey. The other fell in a meadow behind Station Road, Over. Firemen put out magnesium flames which broke out in one of the engines after its impact on hitting the ground. The two aircraft were on a training flight from R.A.F. Station, Oakington

1953 04 14

An impressive ceremony was enacted at Swavesey parish church in the laying-up of the village's British Legion men's and women's section standards. Rain poured in torrents as a large procession of British legion members from various branches headed by a combined band from the R.A.F. stations Oakington and Upwood marched to the church where the congregation included children and First World War veterans

1953 12 28

At Winston House Boys' Hostel, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge each lad had presents sent from "Fairy Godmothers" who invited a number of them for dinner. For those who remained there was roast chicken and Christmas pudding. At The Grange Children's' Home, Swavesey the children hopefully hung up their stockings at the foot of the bed and on awaking found they had been filled. There was no shortage of presents at the Little Shelford Children's' Home, partly due to the generosity of the American servicemen station in the vicinity. An American 'Father Christmas' arrived from Wimpole Park bringing tennis racquets, bagatelle, darts, dolls and tea sets.

1954 02 22

The home of a Swavesey couple was completely destroyed by a fire, which is believed to have been caused by a faulty flu. Green Cottage was originally of plaster and thatch and had once been used as a public house, but it was recently converted to brick construction. The fire started in the roof, which was thatch covered by corrugated asbestos and it had partially collapsed by the time firemen arrived. A floor also collapsed but they were able to save the outbuildings and salvage a small quantity of furniture.

1954 10 30

The ultra-modern Bassingbourn Village College which will be the focal point of cultural and social life for 11 Cambridgeshire villages was officially opened by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr R.A. Butler. It is the first village college to be opened since the war; seven more are planned and sites already acquired at Swavesey and Soham. It would help to stop the drift away from agricultural to industrial areas which might seriously upset the economic balance of the country. A crowd of villagers gathered to watch the arrivals and a detachment of police were on duty to deal with about 250 cars which choked the entrance to the school and overflowed on to the approach road.

1957 03 27

Death W.G. Witherow, auctioneer, Swavesey – 57 03 27

1957 10 17

One of the first steps was taken to persuade the Ministry of Transport to allow the Cambridge – Huntingdon road to be rebuilt as a dual carriageway trunk road. Already two people from Swavesey had been killed in accidents and four others seriously injured. The Chief Constable said that more accidents had occurred on the Newmarket and Stetchworth Toll since it had been turned into a three-lane road than when it was a normal highway: no one can say who has got the right of way. 57 09 30b In the 1920s when Col. W. Whitbread was at Cambridge University he was Master of the Trinity Foot Beagles which hunted in the Swavesey district. A public house called the New Inn on the Huntingdon Road was well known to him so when his brewery bought it from Greene King they decided to

rename it the 'Trinity Foot'. Now it has been completely renovated with a new sign. It was delayed when the van carrying it broke down but was quickly erected just before the unveiling 57 10 17

1958 11 16

The new Swavesey Village College is the seventh to be completed. During the day it is used as a secondary modern school for 330 children and in the evening is attended by 900 people as a further education centre. The college possesses a gymnasium and special rooms for English, geography and music together with a science laboratory, a wood and metal workshop, rooms for cookery, needlework and other household craft. The assembly hall seats 300 people and has a well-equipped stage. 58 11 16

1958 12 29

Coun Burkitt, Chairman of the County Council, made a Christmas Day visit to Midfield Children's Home, Oakington where children were playing happily with their presents and one presented him with an ash tray he had made. At the Grange Children's Home, Swavesey the children were given an additional treat when he played carols on the piano while at Willingham House Old People's Home he admired the turkey which the residents were going to have for their dinner. 58 12 29

1959 01 17

British amateur skating, Mare Fen, Swavesey – 59 01 17, 59 01 23

1959 04 25

The Cambridgeshire Branch of the British Red Cross Society celebrated its Golden Jubilee. The first detachment (women) was formed in Cambridge in 1910 and followed by Bourn, Swavesey, Shelford & Willingham. The first men's detachment was formed at Melbourn in 1913. With the coming of the First World War valuable work was done at hospitals in Cintra Terrace and Wordsworth Grove which laid the foundation for their well-established reputation for invaluable service. 59 04 25c

1959 05 27

British Railways announce that passenger train services between St Ives and Kettering and the freight train services from Buckden and Grafham stations will be withdrawn on June 15th. In addition trains running between Cambridge and St Ives on weekdays which at present serve Kettering will also be withdrawn. Arrangements will be made to augment the service to St Ives by the 10.17 am Cambridge to Peterborough train calling at Histon, Oakington, Longstanton and Swavesey stations and an additional train leaving for St Ives at 5.15pm calling at all stations. 59 05 27a

1960

The Cambridgeshire Collection has more detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960 04 29

Swavesey illustrated feature article – 60 04 29 CIP

1960 09 16

Lolworth School was built in 1887 and belonged to the county council since 1910 but with the erection of Swavesey Village College it had become redundant. T.B. Robinson, a farmer of Lolworth Grange, bought it for use as a village hall. He said it was a marvellous community. When he first came in 1947 there were only 24 dwelling houses, since then 14 more have been added. There was no through traffic and the only thing it had lacked was somewhere people could gather together. 60 09 16

1961 01 06

The Children's Committee have decided that 'The Grange', the big detached villa at Swavesey capable of housing 17 children, can be closed. There is little difficulty in finding foster-parents for younger children as the appeal of the little orphaned toddler is obvious. But there is less appeal in a large awkward moody adolescent boy. The time has come to look for a 'family house' on an ordinary,

homely, Council housing estate where they can keep large families together in the community with house parents who would influence them in the ordinary way. 61 01 06

1961 09 23

A Land Rover and a passenger train crashed at Swavesey level crossing. The crossing is controlled by two five-bar gates which are kept padlocked until traffic wants to go through. The vehicle was returning from milking with a full load of churns in the back when the diesel engine loomed out of the early-morning mist. Passengers were taken to Cambridge by bus and trains were back running by 10 a.m. 61 09 23a

1961 10 04

Swavesey rail crash details – 61 10 04

1964 06 17

Edith Hepher, Swavesey councillor – profile – 64 06 17

1965 03 18

Priory Farm Swavesey ‘haunted’ – 65 03 18a

1972 11 31

Barwell Engineering, the £1 million-a year specialist rubber processing equipment firm have launched a new re-treating system which literally lays new tread on to old tyres. The process known as "pressuretread" is a development from the Swavesey firm's Queen's Award- winning precision performing equipment. Launched in August the new retreading system has taken 18 months to develop and already the first plant has been sold to the United States. Already the firm have had enquiries from Japan, most European countries, and New Zealand. The complete plant, including the autoclave curing oven and a milling machine, costs around £30,000

1974 12 15

A once-and-for-all bid to tackle the flooding problem in the Swavesey area is to be made by South Cambs district council. For years, farmers in the area have complained about the flooding and the inadequacy of the Webb's Hole sluice gate. One said the problem would get worse, forming a threat to human and animal life, unless something was done. A landowner described how in the recent heavy rains the floods had completely covered a five-barred gate. The water had drained so slowly, that, a month later, there were still floods of up to a foot deep.

1975 11 07

There are three restaurants in Cambridgeshire that are worth a star – according to Mr Egon Ronay in his latest guide, just published. The Old Fire Engine House at Ely, the Pheasant Inn at Keyston and Swavesey's Hotel de la Poste are amongst the best eating places in England. At Swavesey patrons are assured of an “extensive, interesting and impeccably French menu and swift bustling service”. The Pheasant produces intriguing sea-food dishes & at the Old Fire Engine local women who have had no real professional training cook to a consistently high standard

1976 09 03

A 45-acre site between Fen Drayton and Swavesey may be turned into a marina and water sports centre when its working life as a gravel pit is exhausted in three years' time. The proposal is being put forward by the Amey Roadstone Corporation which operates extensive sand and gravel extraction pits in and around St Ives. A plan for a marina for 75 boats on part of the site is being considered with a suggestion there should also be a water sports area which will cater for water skiing, skin diving, water activities for children and picnicking. The workings have been operated for more than 20 years and now the company have to produce plans for reconstituting the site.

1977 12 06

The chairman of Cambridgeshire Public Protection Committee, Coun John Mitham, got a first-hand taste of firefighting when he was among the first on the scene at a blaze in a barn at Swavesey. He

lives only a few hundred yards away and when he heard the siren go at Barwell's engineering works he made a dash for his van. Villagers started dousing the fire before the arrival of six soldiers in the Green Goddess which took nearly three quarters of an hour to make the journey from Coldham's Lane, Cambridge.

1979 01 23

The railway line between Swavesey and Cambridge will be used for a passenger service on March 31st for the first time since its closure in 1971. Trains will call at Longstanton, Oakington and Histon – at least for one day. A special train is being organised by the Railway Development Society in conjunction with British Rail. It will leave Swavesey at 1pm and arrive at Cambridge an hour later, returning at 5.30 pm. The fare for adults will be about £1, children 75p and cycles free.

1979 03 29

Cambridge comes out poorly in the new 'Good Food Guide'; two entries are dropped leaving the city with just one restaurant, the 'unusually suave' Peking Chinese Restaurant in Burleigh Street, and one pub, the Fort St George. Out go the Strudel's Restaurant in Fitzroy Street and the Golden Palace Chinese restaurant in Ely together with the Eagle in Bene't Street and the Plough at Coton. Old favourites which retain their rating include the Old Fire Engine House at Ely, the Old Bridge Hotel Huntingdon and the Hotel de la Poste, Swavesey. The Pink Geranium at Melbourn gets the humbler 'Pass' rating.

1979 04 02

There isn't much left of Swavesey station. The station house and offices are all gone, leaving just a few broken seats and a creeper-covered shelter to accommodate the traveller. The railway line which goes through to St Ives was shut to passengers on 3rd October 1970. Now the only trains to use it carry freight and aggregates from Fen Drayton, and oranges to Chivers' factory at Histon. But on Saturday a 'special' was chartered from British Rail by the Cambridge Rail Action Group which wants to see passenger services restored. Every single ticket was sold within five days and nobody complained when the train was a little late arriving and Swavesey Brownies were busy brewing up coffee for any day-trippers

1979 11 13

Swynford Paddocks country-house hotel at Six Mile Bottom remains the best in Cambridgeshire according to a new Egon Ronay guide. The inspectors praised their 'huge baths, bubble bath and gigantic bath towels' as well as their 'international food with a homely touch'. The Old Bridge at Huntingdon, Bedford Lodge at Newmarket and Slepe Hall Hotel at St Ives also come in for praise. But restaurants fare worse, this year even the Hotel de la Poste at Swavesey has lost its single star and three have disappeared altogether – the Don Pasquale in Cambridge, Hunters Fen at Cottenham and The Chequers, Fowlmere

1980 03 24

Rail transport enthusiasts who want the Cambridge to St Ives branch line re-opened have hired a 10-coach Inter-City train. It will set off from Swavesey station and call at Longstanton, Oakington and Histon before running non-stop to Liverpool Street. The branch line closed to passengers in October 1970 but the track has been kept open by block freight trains carrying Spanish oranges and pulp to Cadburys at Histon and bringing out sand from Amey Roadstone. But the track has recently been lifted beyond Fen Drayton and the station site at St Ives has been obliterated by the new by-pass. 80 03 24

1981 03 06

Barrington stores stocks a wide variety of goods. Crusty bread comes in daily from Godfrey's Bakery of Swavesey, eggs come twice a week from Fowlmere and the fruit and veg from Royston. They sell cheese from the block, various cold meats and beers. But they also sell sandpaper, needles, clothes pegs and mousetraps. One lady asked for corset laces, but these were not in stock. 81 03 06a

1981 05 15

Cambridge ecologists say a bus which can run on railway lines is the solution to transport problems in local villages. They plan to borrow a prototype and run it from the city centre to Huntingdon, using British Rail's tracks. It would stop at Mill Road, Chesterton and North Arbury as well as the former stations en route to Swavesey. From this point the tracks have been removed but it would run along the trackbed to St Ives and the Hemingfords. 81 05 15a

1981 07 10

Local historian Jack Ravensdale's curiosity was aroused by some lumps and bumps in an orchard at Swavesey which aerial photographs showed as a castle. Now a television team is working in the village for a new series 'History on Your Doorstep' to be presented by Fred Housego of 'Mastermind' fame. 81 07 10c

1981 12 08

Diners dressed in smocks will consume bowls of celery and potato soup, followed by gammon and spinach with fluffy herb dumplings, potatoes and Fen carrots and ginger pumpkin pie. They will finish with frummetty, a traditional Swavesey feast week recipe, wheat with raisings, currants and sultanas. The dulcimer playing of Jenny Mallindine will aid their digestion. The meal is in aid of the Cambridge Folk Museum which is faced with ever-increasing costs. 81 12 08a

1982 01 08

Swavesey will feature in the first of a new television series called 'History on Your Doorstep'. Local historian Jack Ravensdale will show Fred Housego the remains of a castle and mediaeval dock system. The BBC were inundated with letters after its Family History programmes and fears that the pressure on libraries and archivists could be excessive, so they have issued guidelines and Jack has written a book to accompany the series. 82 01 08a

1982 07 09

Farmers who pressed for a drainage board to be set up in the Swavesey area have fallen out over the level of rates they should pay for the work. An elaborate drainage scheme was approved which it was claimed would reduce flooding from twice a year to once every decade and pay for itself with increased yields. But farmers on higher land did not want to pay as much as those lower down and the failure to levy rates means the work has been taken over by the Great Ouse River Board. 82 07 09

1983 01 13

When Januarys, the Cambridge estate agent, described Croft Cottage at Boxworth Road, Swavesey as 'the worst-maintained house in Cambridge' you can be sure it must be bad. Damp and dry rot are but minor problems in this detached Victorian house which has stood empty for three years. There is no kitchen or bathroom, the living room floor has been removed and the lavatory is down the garden. But potential buyers have been flocking to buy it for around £10,000. 83 01 13a

1983 03 25

Swavesey Youth Club swept the board, winning all four prizes at a junior disco-dancing competition. Four teams were entered and took the first four places. The winner was Iskaborio who are Kirsty Lewis, Racheal Howard, Lisa Huggett, Anita Collis, June Sales and Sharon Richards. They were trained by Mrs Mary Brighton and her daughter Abi who teach disco dancing at Swavesey Youth Club. 83 03 25 p11 pix

1983 05 21

Villages around Cambridge are reeling from flooding – more than a foot deep in places – which swept through their homes after torrential rain smashed down onto already waterlogged ground. Houses were under water over a massive area, including the villages of Croxton and Over. Swavesey baker, Roger Godfrey, was watching the cup final when he realised water was coming in under his front door, with four inches covering his floor at one stage. 83 05 21 p1

1984 01 05

A new village industry is booming in Cambridgeshire – compiling village chronicles. It is the result of a major project at the Cambridgeshire Collection which has indexed the village news appearing in the Cambridge Chronicle newspaper between 1770 and 1899. Now these stories are being transcribed and published in a series of village ‘Chronicles’. The first was compiled for Stretham and others have followed for Littleport, Barrington and Swavesey with more in the pipeline. 84 01 05

1984 06 21

Flash floods brought chaos as heavy rain turned roads into rivers and swamped houses. In Fenstanton parents battled through the night to bail out the village school and in Kedington a centuries-old barn was swept into the river. Flooding was severe in Whitton Close, Swavesey where the evening’s events were described as ‘pandemonium’. 84 06 21 p1

1984 06 13

A move to combine the parishes of Histon and Impington has been rejected by the Environment Secretary. Other moves to move Comberton Village College from Thriplow parish, to move Little Thriplow into Fowlmere and change boundaries between Over/Swavesey have also been turned down. But a small piece of farmland on the Little Abington and Babraham border has been agreed. 84 06 13 p18

1984 06 27

Swavesey residents celebrated the centenary of the Greenwich Meridian, which passes through the village. The market square had a festive atmosphere as they sipped Meridian Cocktails, the concoction of the landlord of the White Horse, Cyril Leaver. The sub-postmaster, Jim Milne, reported roaring sales of a special Swavesey cover of the commemorative stamps which went on sale for the first time. Seven-year-old Philip Harding made a telephone call to Ouagadougou, the capital of Upper Volta in Africa which also has the Meridian line running through it. 84 06 27 p12

1985 04 01

Work has started on draining 600 acres of water meadow at Swavesey, described as an extremely valuable wildlife refuge. Cambridge Friends of the Earth say farmers’ plans to plough up the meadows to grow grain – when Britain has a massive surplus – are financial madness. Every bit of this increasingly rare type of habitat is precious and they are threatening physical action to save the Cow and Mare Fen. But the Internal Drainage Board say people are worrying unnecessarily. 85 04 01

1985 06 21

Cambridgeshire County Council is to buy Mare Fen at Swavesey to conserve it as a breeding ground for rare birds, stopping a drainage scheme which threatened to destroy the nationally-famous wet grazing meadows. The controversy started five years ago when the Anglian Water Authority announced a scheme to prevent frequent flooding in Swavesey, Over and Willingham. This would have involved ploughing Mare Fen up for cereal growing. Now it will be left out of the scheme without affecting the rest. 85 06 21

1985 08 13

Swavesey villagers are outraged at plans to shut their library and replace it with a van. The library is the centre of the community with a turnover of at least 2,500 books a week; old people’s clubs arrange meetings when it is open so that elderly members can call in. Even people from the surrounding villages use it. The protests started when it was discovered that village college governors had decided that the library would have to move out of rented rooms there because of a desperate shortage of classrooms. If the public library were to go the school could have more accommodation at no extra expense. But campaigners say “We won’t let this happen. We have got to keep our library in the village”. 85 08 13

1985 09 04

Swavesey library closure opposed – 85 09 04

1985 09 23

Swavesey library has been saved thanks to outraged villagers who lobbied Cambridgeshire County Council to prevent its closure. The protest started when governors at the school wanted to move it out because of a shortage of space. 230 people attended a public meeting objecting to any attempt to shut the library which lends at least 2,500 books a week. Now councillors have backed them by 14 votes to two. Campaigners are overjoyed and others in a similar situation will realise that if you try, you can win, they say 85 09 23

1985 09 24

Cambridgeshire Secondary Schools need £10 million spent on essential building work to stop children being taught in 'appalling conditions'. Hinchbrook Lower School was particularly bad with leaking roofs and rotting window frames. Many of their 14 mobile classrooms were over 20 years old and totally dilapidated. Work is also needed at Bottisham and Swavesey Village Colleges but the current Government will not allow the work to be carried out in a single year. "The Conservatives have left us with a massive problem" said an Alliance county councillor 85 09 24

1985 12 18

Mare Fen, 40 acres of wet grazing meadow near Swavesey which has been purchased by the County Council, will be maintained as an important refuge for rare wildfowl. But it could also be used for skating, marking the rebirth of a well-established local tradition. Friends of the Earth are pleased that its wildlife value has been recognised but are disappointed that the adjoining Cow Fen has now been drained to increase agricultural yield 85 12 18

1986 05 22

A new town for up to 18,000 people may be created as a cure for Cambridge's spiralling housing needs. It would include shops, pubs, leisure facilities and 150 acres of supporting industry. Two possible sites are the A10 Waterbeach-Landbeach area and the Caxton, Bourn and Swavesey area between the A45 and A604. One solution would be if the Ministry of Defence could be persuaded to leave either Waterbeach or Oakington bases. But County planners have rejected any new settlement south of Cambridge, fearing housing would be snapped up by M11 and railway commuters 86 05 22

1986 06 23

British Rail is considering reopening part of the disused Cambridge-Huntingdon railway to provide extra transport for the suggested new village in the Swavesey area. They would use the existing platforms at Swavesey, Longstanton and Oakington but would have to build a new one at Histon. Most of the line closed to passenger traffic some years ago but some is used for occasional freight trains to the Chivers factory and fruit orchard complexes 86 06 23 # c.26.2

1986 06 26

The old St Ives railway may be dug up and part of the route turned into a new main road to provide direct access for people living in the proposed new village for 3,000 people near Swavesey. British Rail is unenthusiastic about reopening the line without county or private investment. But the County Council has already turned down the suggestion of financial involvement and says it would make more sense for the railway to be dug up and replaced with a main road. 86 06 26a

1986 08 27

British Rail may build new stations near Cambridge and Huntingdon as part of a modernisation scheme. A county transportation spokesman called for stations at Milton and at new villages near Waterbeach and Swavesey which are under consideration in the Structure Plan review. He'd also like to see the St Ives to Cambridge line re-opened and a stop at Milton would help to service the Science Park as well. This was endorsed by the Railway Development Society who also suggested stations at North Arbury and Cherry Hinton. 86 08 27

1986 11 11

Swavesey villagers have begun the opposition to a proposed new town on its doorstep – 86 11 11

1987 09 21

The scene of carnage on the railway line at Swavesey was too much for one fireman who came to help release the dying and injured from the mangled carriages. He was physically sick at the sight of bodies littered around the burned out shell of the passenger train, but like a true professional he recovered quickly and carried on. Fortunately it was not for real, but part of a major exercise involving all the emergency services. But no-one had told those involved until they actually arrived. They thought they were heading for a major disaster. 87 09 21

1990 03 24

Hundreds of people swamped the first passenger train between Swavesey and Cambridge for 20 years and at least 200 were left standing. The special service, chartered by the Railway Development Society was overwhelmed. There were 500 waiting at Swavesey, 100 at Longstanton, 200 at Oakington and another 100 at Histon. The train arrived at Cambridge station more than 20 minutes late. 90 03 24b 90 03 26a

1990 06 23

Cambridge to Swavesey railway line – support for reinstatement; special train – 90 06 23a